



**AMENDED MINUTES
AS APPROVED OCTOBER 24, 2005**

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
PINNACLE TRAINING ROOM
7575 EAST MAIN STREET
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA
SEPTEMBER 12, 2005**

PRESENT: John Tutelman, Chairman
Michele Culver, Vice-Chairman
Marty Gendron, Commissioner
Carol Padwe, Commissioner
Enid Seiden, Commissioner
Aubrey Strickstein, Commissioner
Theodore Tyler, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Velicia McMillan, Staff Liaison

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Scottsdale Human Relations Commission was called to order by Chairman Tutelman at 5:08 p.m. A formal roll call confirmed members present as stated above.

2. **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

COMMISSIONER GENDRON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2005 MEETING. COMMISSIONER TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF 7 (SEVEN) TO 0 (ZERO).

3. **PROMOTING UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY**

Dr. McMillan reported that several people outside of the Commission reviewed the straw man of the brochure and the draft of the letter. Changes were made based on their suggestions and answer the questions asked in the brochure, but do not change the intent of the documents. Dr. McMillan distributed copies of both

documents, requesting that Commissioners review the straw man copy and grant approval for printing. Dr. McMillan indicated that the October and November dates may be deleted and the kick-off held in December, dependant upon when the brochures are printed. She will inform the Commission should such dates need to be changed.

COMMISSIONER GENDRON MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE COVER LETTER AS MODIFIED. COMMISSIONER SEIDEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF 7 (SEVEN) TO 0 (ZERO).

A discussion ensued regarding the capitalization and titling used in the brochure. The Commission selected the use of all capital letters for each title, specifically noting the sentence: HOW ARE PROJECTS APPROVED.

COMMISSIONER GENDRON MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BROCHURE AS MODIFIED. COMMISSIONER STRICKSTEIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF 7 (SEVEN) TO 0 (ZERO).

Commissioner Tyler asked about the distribution of the brochure. Dr. McMillan explained that it would go to schools in the Scottsdale School District, other schools that service Scottsdale residents, faith organizations, Boys and Girls Clubs, and senior centers.

4. **REGIONAL HRC DAY LABORER SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

Dr. McMillan noted that she has the Minutes from the June 28 meeting. The next meeting is on September 21, from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., at the Tempe Library.

Commissioner Gendron presented an update on the August 31 meeting. Attendees discussed what the next step would be following the successful presentation that had taken place. The decision was made to invite someone from the offices of Senator McCain and Congressman Hayworth or Senator Kyl and someone from the Governor's Office to discuss Proposition 200 and its impact on day labor. At the meeting on September 21st the sub-committee will find out who is speaking, agree to the agenda and the site, with hopes of finalizing and holding the meeting before Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Gendron further reported that the City of Chandler has started giving warnings to day laborers on Arizona Avenue to encourage them to use the Day Labor Centers, which are funded by private organizations.

Dr. McMillan asked Commissioners to let her know if they were planning to attend the September meeting so that she could confirm that it will be an open meeting.

5. **HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION**

Chairman Tutelman noted that this is scheduled for October 1st.

Dr. McMillan distributed a list of the food vendors, noting some recent additions that will be added: Cactus Korn, Richie Carbajal, and Nina's Dogs. She also distributed a list of participating community organizations. The Army will bring a rock climbing wall and Hummers. The Air National Guard is taking part. TV y Mas, which was a silver sponsor last year, is now a gold sponsor and is sponsoring some of the tents as well as the kids jumping castle.

Dr. McMillan said there is a vendor meeting on September 21st, at which she will remind vendors to bring signs for their items. Chairman Tutelman encouraged the Commissioners to volunteer and Dr. McMillan noted that there are opportunities for volunteering throughout the day, including set-up. Commissioners are needed to staff the Human Relations Commission booth; handing out brochures, bags and generally promoting the Human Relations Commission. The event runs from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.

A discussion ensued whereby Commissioners volunteered and a schedule was established. Commissioner Gendron volunteered to staff the booth from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Commissioner Padwe volunteered to join him. Commissioner Strickstein volunteered to staff the booth from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Chairman Tutelman volunteered to cover from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Commissioner Seiden reported a prior commitment and volunteered to arrive early in the day to assist with event set-up.

6. **CROSS CULTURAL COMMUNICATION SERIES**

Dr. McMillan handed out the brochure entitled: "Many Voices One Nation." After Commissioners reviewed the brochure, Commissioner Gendron commended her on a job well done.

7. **CHAIRMAN REPORTS:**

Chairman Tutelman said he had nothing to report.

8. **COMMISSIONER ITEMS:**

Commissioner Seiden reported attending the meeting that was scheduled to determine how the Commission could help the Mosque with community relations. The meeting was attended by Robin Meinhardt from Planning, Mike Phillips from CAPA, Latrisha Harper from the City Manager's office, Dr. McMillan and Aneesah Nadir, Director of the Islamic Social Services Association.

The gentleman representing the Mosque did not attend the meeting. The attendees talked about the concerns that residents have related to the mosque, which include: fears that the Mosque will support and help develop terrorism; increased traffic; and lights for late night events.

Commissioner Seiden further noted that an expressed concern is that there is not enough input from the Muslim community to educate the public. The members of the Mosque have concerns too, because they feel that the media has made Muslims into villains. They are frightened that their place of worship will become a focus for hate crime because people are afraid of what might be going on there. They feel that members of mosques are not seen as Americans.

Commissioner Seiden noted that participants at the meeting tried to figure out how they could help. They were told that the Muslims are going to do an open house on their own and although the members of the Mosque appreciated it, the City's help is not needed at this point.

Dr. McMillan added that they would like the Commission to be a resource. A discussion ensued. Dr. McMillan clarified that the Black Muslims / Nation of Islam is not an orthodox Muslim group.

Commissioner Seiden noted that the Mosque is finished on the outside. The landscaping and exterior lighting is done but no signs are up as yet. She added that it blends into the desert. Commissioner Tyler commented that they had done a nice job architecturally.

Commissioner Seiden shared an article that appeared in that day's paper. Gerda Weissmann Klein, a Scottsdale resident, is a Holocaust survivor. A documentary about her life won an Academy Award several years ago. Ms. Klein is making the video and a teaching guide available for high schools free of charge. The website with the information is www.kleinfoundation.org. Commissioner Seiden wondered whether the Commission should pass on this information to the high schools.

Chairman Tutelman recommended looking at the website before getting into a discussion. Commissioner Strickstein suggested inviting Ms. Klein to come to a Commission meeting. Dr. McMillan noted that it would be wonderful if that meeting could be televised. Commissioner Seiden concurred, adding that she highly recommended the documentary. Commissioner Padwe noted that Ms. Klein is going to New Orleans in connection with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Commissioner Seiden shared an article from The Chronicle of Higher Education about Amina Wadud, a Muslim who is an associate professor at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Commissioner Gendron returned to the meeting regarding the Mosque. He asked whether the people at the meeting were expressing their personal fears, or if it were things that the City had heard from residents. Commissioner Seiden reported that the noted concerns had been received from residents. Dr. McMillan added that Dr. Nadir had also talked about fears expressed to their community.

Commissioner Tyler reported that the Martin Luther King Day celebration will be hosted on Monday, January 9, 2006. Julian Bond will be the keynote speaker.

Commissioner Tyler urged the Commission to hold off-site meetings, noting that the Human Services Commission frequently does so and that it has been too long since the Human Relations Commission held an off-site meeting. He further noted that this would raise the profile of the Commission within the community. He suggested that this occur with every second or third meeting. A discussion ensued regarding the logistics of having Commission meetings televised. Dr. McMillan undertook to put this matter on the agenda for the next meeting, so that the Commission could make a decision.

Commissioner Strickstein said the Commission could do a stronger job of initiating dialog. Building on Commissioner Tyler's ideas, Commissioner Strickstein stated that in addition to having meetings out in the community, that the Commission should somehow create opportunities for discussions around issues such as: How can the Commission get conversations going about situations like the Mosque?

Dr. McMillan suggested that supporting the Cross Cultural could be a vehicle for exposure, noting that the Commission is mentioned as a sponsor, yet Commissioners do not attend regularly. If the Commissioners could help promote the topics, this would be a great opportunity.

Commissioner Strickstein agreed, referring to the Cross Cultural Communication brochure. He asked whether they are presentations or dialogs. Dr. McMillan reported that they become dialogs. Commissioner Strickstein reiterated that he was building on Commissioner Tyler's ideas, not just to go out into the community but also to tap into diversity-related issues, concerns and questions that the community has.

Dr. McMillan expressed frustration about the challenge of getting broadcasts on Channel 11, noting that broadcast quality video is needed and the video needs to be edited to an hour. She stated that if the Commission could be broadcast on Channel 11, this would give the community an idea of what the Commission does and what the Cross Cultural series is about. If people could see on television that this is a safe, comfortable place to have these dialogs, people would be more inclined to attend the series. Dr. McMillan volunteered to approach Channel 11 again.

Commissioner Strickstein noted that the majority of evacuees from Hurricane Katrina who have come to the Coliseum are minority group members. He wanted to know if there is anything the Commission can do and wondered if sister commissions around the Valley are doing anything. He asked if this could be added as an ad-hoc agenda item.

Dr. McMillan said that the Commission could have a discussion. She added that her church is putting together care teams, assigning two persons to advocate for each displaced family for six to eight months to help them become self-sufficient.

Commissioner Gendron talked about the sub-committee meeting that had been videotaped. He volunteered to do the editing and wondered whether it could be loaded onto the City server and linked to the website. Dr. McMillan confirmed that the panel presentations could be edited for broadcast.

Commissioner Gendron asked whether the City would pay for the tickets to the Diversity Leadership Alliance. Dr. McMillan said she would inquire.

9. **OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

10. **STAFF LIASON ITEMS:**

Dr. McMillan reminded the Commission of the meeting dates and times. She suggested that the 2006 meeting schedule might be set at the next meeting. A discussion ensued debating the possibility of moving the October meeting date to the 24th. Dr. McMillan said she would send out an email and Commissioners were to check their calendars.

The Commission reviewed the calendar prepared by Dr. McMillan.

Vice-Chair Culver announced that she is legally changing her name to Michèle TaTiana deLaFreniere, which will occur on September 26th.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A-V Tronics, Inc.